

**From:** Robert Lucas  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:51pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

From what I have heard of the Microsoft settlement I do not feel it will prevent future abuses of monopoly power that Microsoft has been conducting, nor do anything to even slightly make up for the past transgressions.

The idea of having Microsoft give out free copies of Windows to schools seems noble at first, but is about as ludicrous as punishing a drug dealer by having him give out cocaine to school children for free. Further spreading Windows as it is currently designed will only foster addiction as the company has a unabashed reputation for creating products that quickly become obsolete and require expensive upgrades (try typing "Hello Mom" in one of the later versions of Microsoft Office and opening it up with even a year old copy!) Furthermore, unlike tangible assets, the giving away of "intellectual property" like Windows in bulk is virtually costless to Microsoft and is not a suitable punishment.

Windows currently has a monopoly on the desktop and any solution to restore competition will take years. However the only way that this competition could even start would be for companies and individuals to at the very least understand how to work with Windows machines. By this I mean that the APIs and protocols used to network various Windows machines must be made public knowledge FOR EVERYONE. Furthermore, resellers and others should have the right to modify purchased copies of Windows to better suit their needs and their costumers needs. The monopoly power of Microsoft allows them to implement closed systems that impair innovation and are even probably illegal to try to reverse engineer out these days. The Internet works primarily using the TCP/IP protocol, if this protocol were protected the same way the protocols Windows uses to attach to something as simple as a printer the Internet would never have become what it is today.

Microsoft continues to try to abuse their monopoly stance by squashing competing companies like Netscape and then redirecting every mis-typed web page address to their home portal. They add hooks to many of their media programs that encourage you to sign up for their Passport system with deceptive messages that make it sound like these two things are somehow related. They create new encryption protocols for the honorable goal of digital security, then ensure that software for these protocols only works under Windows rendering any other alternative operating system useless.

As I see it, the only way to stop Microsoft from abusing their power is to stop them from oppressive licensing schemes for resellers and to stop making software and protocols that only work under Windows. I'm not sure how I would

punish them for their past deeds, but I think that any punishment should be designed to help those companies and individuals wronged by Microsoft's actions to succeed in creating competition against the company. I also strongly favor the idea of the creation of some sort of oversight committee to help ensure Microsoft starts acting responsibly.

Sincerely,  
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/ / If you're not part of the solution, \\_ /  
/ / you're part of the precipitate. \ \